

Even worse, Hansen testified before Congress against the direct loan program; and yet somehow President Bush determined that he was the perfect person to run the direct loan program. Based on Hansen's past, we should not be surprised that on his watch the Education Department cut off marketing for the direct loan program and stopped competing for new schools to offer the direct loans. The Bush administration even proposed selling the direct loan portfolio to private lenders.

After weakening the direct loan program, Hansen left the Bush administration last July to become the managing director of education services for the Affiliated Computer Services, an information technology business that specializes in outsourcing solutions to commercial and government clients. Four months later, that company was awarded a \$2 billion contract from the Department of Education.

Mr. Speaker, these are just two examples, not even a half page, in this 21-page report that the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) put together. There are many other examples that probably will be brought to the floor or discussed further on other nights.

Within the Bush administration, it is clear that a revolving door has been created in which corporate leaders come in and work for the administration for a period of time, weakening popular laws that benefit the American people.

Unfortunately, this revolving door does not only exist within the Bush administration. It also exists here within the Republican majority in the House of Representatives, and it should stop. The revolving door within the Republican majority is becoming so widespread if you picked up the newspapers the last week or so, you would think that was the only thing going on up here on Capitol Hill.

There was a front page story in last Thursday's Roll Call, which is the Capitol Hill newspaper, one of the Capitol Hill newspapers. The first headline in last Thursday's Roll Call read, "Revolving Door Snags Hill Aide." There is a subheading, "Taylor Staffer Negotiated Lobby Contract While on House Payroll."

Roll Call reports that Robert France, the former top aide to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR), negotiated a \$60,000 lobbying deal on House time. The negotiations came 2 months after the aide was able to secure a \$750,000 appropriations projected earmarked to his boss.

This revolving door, my question is, Where does it end? Ken Gross, an ethics and campaign finance lawyer told Roll Call, "People are certainly able to seek jobs, cashing in on their background and experience on the Hill." Gross continued to say, "If there is evidence of this person working as a staffer on legislation that would especially benefit this company while he is talking to them about going to work for them,

that would be troubling." Yet that is what seems to go on.

Going back to the front page of last Thursday's Roll Call, there is another headline that says, "McCain Seeks Files in Abramoff Probe." This article surrounds actions first discovered by The Washington Post several weeks ago in which the paper discovered Jack Abramoff, a White House lobbyist, and Michael Scanlon, a former aide to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), persuading several Indian tribes to pay their firms more than \$45 million over the past 3 years. Senator MCCAIN is now investigating these payments.

The Scanlon-Abramoff investigation is a perfect example of how Scanlon used his relationship with his former boss, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader, to influence legislation. When Republican Leader DELAY was asked about how both men promote their ties to him, he stated, "I have no idea how their operation is or what it is." DELAY continued, "What I can tell you is that if anybody is trading on my name to get clients or to make money, that is wrong and they should stop it immediately."

Mr. Speaker, that is an interesting statement. I wish it were true. However, we have to consider that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) has played an instrumental role in the K Street Project, a database that tracks the party affiliation, Hill experience, and political giving of every single lobbyist here in Washington. The K Street Project was featured in a July 2003 edition of the Washington Monthly, and the article stated back in 1995 that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) compiled a list of the 400 political action committees, along with the amounts and percentages of money that had recently been given to each party. Lobbyists were then invited into the office of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) and shown their place in friendly or unfriendly columns.

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A veteran steel lobbyist told Washington Monthly that the House Republican leadership "assembled several large company CEOs and made it clear to them that they were expected to purge their Washington offices of Democrats and replace them with Republicans." The House Republican leaders also demanded more campaign money and help for the upcoming election. According to the article, the meeting descended into a shouting match and the CEOs, most of them Republicans, stormed out of the meeting.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) essentially is telling lobbying firms around Washington whom they can and cannot hire. He also has worked hard to place former aides in key lobbying and trade positions. The practice is so well known that these former aides are known as "graduates of the DeLay school." And yet, with a straight face, the majority leader tells

reporters, "If anybody is trading on my name to get clients or make money, that is wrong and they should stop immediately." Well, it does not seem to be very believable.

Tonight, as I said, I have been talking about a revolving door, a door that swings for the Republican corporate interests but shuts in front of everyday Americans. Whether it be the President opening rooms in the White House and Camp David to the highest bidder, or the administration hiring many of its key officials to advocate on behalf of policies they have opposed in the past, or the questionable actions of former Republican staffers who are functioning in a climate created by the majority leader, it is just unacceptable.

I know that the media has been paying a lot of attention to this, and I think it is important that we bring it out. I do not want people to think that this is always the case, but it certainly is a strong indication that the President and the Republican leadership in the Congress have been essentially involved with this revolving door for some time, and let us just hope it does not get any worse.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today from 3:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of a funeral in the district.

Mr. CARDOZA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 4:15 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 5:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today before noon on account of personal business.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for March 9 and today before 2:00 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

Mr. WICKER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of the death of his mother.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOYD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CASE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.